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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

July 14, 2010

Thurman Higginbotham



Dear Mr. Higginbotham:

We are writing to invite you to testify before the Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight at a hearing entitled, "Mismanagement of Contracts at Arlington National Cemetery." The hearing will be held on Thursday, July 29, 2010 at 10:00 A.M. in Room SD-342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to examine reports of pervasive mismanagement and potential waste, fraud, and abuse in contracts at Arlington National Cemetery. In particular, the hearing will review findings from the U.S. Army Inspector General's June 2010 reports on Arlington National Cemetery (ANC), which found "a lack of expertise in contracting processes within the cemetery, coupled with a lack of focused external oversight."

Your testimony should address your responsibility for the award, management, and oversight of contracts at ANC, including contracts for information technology to automate Arlington National Cemetery's paper recordkeeping systems and to modernize cemetery operations. You should also be prepared to discuss the Army Inspector General's findings that you repeatedly authorized payment to contractors for IT contracts despite "grossly inadequate contractor progress to justify these expenditures."

We also request that you provide a briefing for Subcommittee staff on these issues on or before **July 20, 2010**.

The Subcommittee requests that witnesses summarize their testimony in 5 minutes, although a longer written statement may be submitted for the official record. This will allow adequate time for you to engage in questions and answers with members of the Subcommittee. **Subcommittee rules require that your testimony be submitted by 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, July 27, 2010.** Please send an electronic copy of your written statement and a brief one page biography to Subcommittee Clerk, Kelsey Stroud, at Kelsey_Stroud@hsgac.senate.gov.

Please have your staff contact Margaret Daum at (202) 224-8316 with any questions and to schedule the requested briefing.

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Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill
Chairman
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight



Scott Brown
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight

cc: Robert W. Mance III, Esq.